

# DEER ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-27-4

PROJECT NR.: 2.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Game Management Regions 1 and 2

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Deer and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I.

PERIOD: 1 July 2000–30 June 2001

---

## The Status of Alaska Deer and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I

### Regionwide Activities

*Conduct a mail survey of deer hunters to determine parameters of harvest.* Not only was a mail survey of a sample of Region I hunters conducted, a review of several previous year's survey results was performed for consistency. About 10,500 deer were harvested by about 8000 hunters.

*Conduct pellet-group surveys at selected locations throughout the region.* This activity was successfully carried out in April and May 2001. About 7700 plots were surveyed on approximately 30 count areas between Ketchikan and Yakutat.

*Conduct mortality transects in key areas as needed and budgets allow.* This activity was successfully carried out in Unit 4 in spring 2001. Seven 1-mile transects were walked and no dead deer were documented.

*Conduct spotlight surveys in key areas as needed and budgets allow.* No spotlight surveys were conducted in Region I during the regulatory year.

*Draft a deer management report.* The 2-year deer management report was completed in April 2001 and submitted to headquarters.

*Provide information to the Board of Game regarding deer management.* During fall 2000 Region I staff provided information to the Board on deer pellet counts and harvest trends. The Board took no action on deer regulatory matters.

*Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.* This draft satisfies the activity as described.

*Monitor the harvest by communicating with hunters on an opportunistic basis. Area biologists and other staff members spoke with hunters opportunistically to gain a better understanding of their hunting effort and success.*

**Units 1A & 2**

*Operate hunter check station on Prince of Wales Island.* This activity was not carried out in fall 2000.

**Units 1B & 3**

*Conduct spotlight surveys.* There were no spotlight surveys conducted during the regulatory year.

**Unit 4**

*Conduct deer mortality transects in key areas as needed.* This activity was successfully carried out in spring 2001.

**Regional Segment Period Project Costs: \$133.7**

## **The Status of Alaska Deer and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II**

### **Regionwide Activities**

Activity 1: Draft a deer management report.

Draft deer management reports were prepared for Region 2 deer populations in 2001.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game on deer management.

The Board of Game addressed proposals regarding deer in Region 2 during its spring 2001 meeting.

Activity 3: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 4: Monitor the deer harvest through field observations and contacts with hunters.

See Activity 2, Unit 8.

Activity 5: Conduct a deer hunter mail questionnaire survey.

Region 2 completed its annual mail deer questionnaire.

---

### **Activities by Unit**

#### **Unit 6**

Activity 1: Conduct aerial survey of Prince William Sound shoreline in spring to assess deer overwinter survival.

Activity 2: Conduct annual pellet group surveys.

We conducted deer pellet surveys at 8 locations during 27May – 14June. We added 2 locations in western PWS (Naked Island and Bay of Isles on Knight Island) to the standard 6 locations so that I can better monitor deer populations exposed to increased hunting via the Whittier road

Preliminary results (pending repeated measures analysis) indicated that density was up slightly from last year to 0.9 pellet groups per plot.

Activity 3: Conduct a deer hunter mail questionnaire survey.

Harvest: 1717 including 1094 males (61%), and 660 females.

Hunter effort: 1535 active hunters, 6234 hunter days, 1.1 deer per hunter.

## Unit 8

Activity 1: Assess winter mortality in standardized mortality count areas.

Results: Winter mortality on Kodiak Island during the 1998–99 winter reduced the population by at least 50%. Public concerns about the ability of the deer population to recover prompted the Board of Game to accept a proposal by the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee to reduce the bag limit to 3 deer for most of the unit, and restrict the harvest of does to the month of December with a limit of 1/year. Mortality was significantly lower during the 1999–2000 and 2000–01 winters.

Activity 2: Conduct a deer hunter mail questionnaire survey.

Results: We monitored hunting activities and harvest by a mail questionnaire. Extrapolated results indicated the 2000 harvest was 2490 deer, including 73% males. Thirty percent of the harvest was from Afognak, Raspberry, and Shuyak islands; 70% of the harvest was from Kodiak and small adjacent islands. Hunter success was 50% and successful hunters averaged 0.9 deer per hunter. The average number of days hunted was 5.7 days/hunter. Boats were the most common means of transportation (40%) followed by aircraft (30%) and highway vehicles (10%). Hunter residency was: non-local Alaska residents (44%), Kodiak Island residents (39%) and non-residents (18%).

Activity 3: Evaluate improved procedures for assessing population status.

Kodiak NWR sponsored a workshop in June 2000 to address continued concerns about the impact of introduced animals on native flora and fauna. Workshop participants concluded that a unitwide vegetative analysis was the highest research priority, followed closely by a comprehensive analysis of deer movements, feeding areas, and population dynamics. Refuge staff members are committed to working with the Department to follow through on these recommendations.

### **Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:**

None.

### **Segment Period Project Costs:**

Fiscal year					Statewide
2000–2001	I	II	III	V	Total
Actual	133.7	43.2			176.9

Submitted by:

Statewide Costs: \$176,900

Michael G McDonald

Assistant Management Coordinator